IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a peripheral device

detachably coupled to a computer system, said method comprising the steps

of:

a) receiving an interrupt from said peripheral device, said peripheral

device being coupled to a communications port of said computer system;

b)—responsive to said interrupt, posting an interrupt notification

message to alert a high priority device-specific notification handler, said high

priority device-specific notification handler having a higher priority than a

system interrupt from said peripheral device without involving said system

interrupt notification handler;

e) servicing said interrupt notification message upon receipt thereof.

22. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said

computer system has a plurality of said high priority device-specific notification

handlers installed thereon.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 21 further

comprising the step of triggering a default action in the event that said high

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priority device-specific notification handler fails to handle said interrupt

notification message.

24. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said

communications port is a serial communications port.

25. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said

peripheral device is a RS-232 peripheral device.

26. (Original). The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said

computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21 further comprising

examining a device sense pin of said communications port to determine a

voltage thereon.

28. (New) A computer system capable of identifying a peripheral

device communicatively coupled thereto, said computer system comprising:

a processor for posting an interrupt notification message to alert a high

priority device-specific notification handler in response to an interrupt received

from a peripheral device, said high priority device-specific notification handler

having a higher priority than a system interrupt notification handler and being

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capable of directly servicing an interrupt from said peripheral device without involving said system interrupt notification handler;

a memory coupled to said processor; and

a communications port coupled to said processor, said communications port for receiving said interrupt from said peripheral device.

- 29. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said computer system has a plurality of said high priority device-specific notification handlers installed thereon.
- 30. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said processor is operable to trigger a default action in the event that said high priority device-specific notification handler fails to handle said interrupt notification message.
- 31. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said communications port is a serial communications port.
- 32. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said peripheral device is a RS-232 peripheral device.
- 33. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said computer system is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

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(New) The computer system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said 34. communication port comprises a device sense pin of said communications port to determine a voltage thereon.

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